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## 1ST ARMORED DIVISION ARTILLERY CASES COLORS IN BAUMHOLDER CEREMONY

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**BAUMHOLDER, Germany** -- The command and colors of V Corps' Division Artillery, 1st Armored Division marched together for the last time during an inactivation ceremony on Minnick Field at Smith Barracks here May 1.

As the winds of change continue to sweep through the division, the last standing Division Artillery unit in the Army cased its colors as part of the current Army-wide transformation.



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DIVARTY's cased colors will remain in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., until the

Col. Darryl A. Williams, commander of V Corps' Division Artillery, 1st Armored Division, salutes as the smoke from the ceremonial last rounds fired rises into the sky during the DIVARTY inactivation ceremony on Minnick Field in Baumholder, Germany May 1.

Department of Defense decides to reactivate the "Iron Steel" brigade.

"This is a special spot to me, and a special spot to our Soldiers, families and the German population around here," said 1st Armored Division Commander Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr. in his remarks following the casing of the DIVARTY colors,

referring to the many celebrations and memorials that have taken place on Minnick Field.

DIVARTY was originally activated as the Headquarters of the 1st Armored Division Artillery in 1940. During World War II the unit earned six campaign streamers for its efforts in North Africa and Italy.

DIVARTY Soldiers also fought in support of Operation Desert Storm, attacking enemy positions deep inside Iraq and participating in several defensive and offensive operations that earned the unit two additional battle streamers.

Most recently, DIVARTY returned to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit remained in Iraq for 15 months as its Soldiers helped improve security, public works, government, and other quality-of-life institutions.

"This DIVARTY has remained flexible and responsive to the needs of every commander, and has provided exemplary and exceptional service to our nation," said Robinson.

"As the Army continues to transform, Division Artillery will no longer exist in the United States Army. Nevertheless, the strength and power of the artillery endures in our formations and on the battlefield," said DIVARTY Commander Col. Darryl A. Williams.

Williams cited battles in Iraq and Afghanistan as highlights of the prominent role that he believes artillery plays on the modern battlefield.

"It's bittersweet in the sense that DIVARTY goes away, but (that) the artillery will still maintain its place in our division," said Williams. "The Soldiers will go and join other formations in the Army, many of them going to some of our brother brigades in Baumholder and Friedberg."

Williams believes the Soldiers of DIVARTY are ready for the transition. "The precision and the exactness you have to have in the artillery will manifest and carry over into this new transformation."

